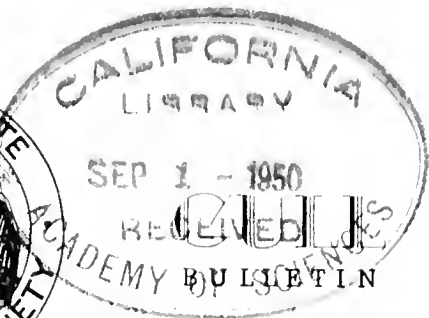


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A NOTE ON THE AMERICAN SCOTER

There have been four different reports in the Gull this year of the American Scoter, but in no case were any details given as is advisable for a very rare bird. Grinnell and Wythe in "Directory to the Bird-Life of the San Francisco Bay Region" 1927) listed only four records. Grinnell and Miller in "The Distribution of the Birds of California" (1944) considered the bird so rare that they listed all definite records, including several others for the Bay area. Hoffmann in "Birds of the Pacific States" cautions against mistaking a young male Surf Scoter with its uniformly black head for an American Scoter. The writer has observed a number of all-black scoters in this area, but on close examination with the telescope all of these had the black spot on the bill near the base that is characteristic of the Surf Scoter. In several other cases the white head markings of the male Surf Scoter were present though quite obscure. Neither of Peterson's Guides mentions this possible confusion of the young male Surf Scoter with an American Scoter — in both works he says that the American Scoter is the only American duck with entirely black plumage.

— A. Laurence Curl

THE CASPIAN TERN COLONY

Since there have been no published records for the Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia imperator* colony at Dumbarton Bridge in the past few years, our small group including Mrs. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Adamson, Lee Stallcup, David Todd and Ken Schulz, decided to investigate, August 13, 1950. As we approached the colony, the adult birds flew down to scold us. As we went further more birds came, some diving at our heads, and others just flying about screaming at us. Reaching the colony we were surprised to find newly hatched young, along with young with and without flight feathers. Most of the young birds left the nest, a hollow hole in the ground, and took to the water. At the same time the adult birds herded the partly grown birds down the levee.

This colony was discovered by C. Littlejohn on July 4, 1926 with 164 nests. Due to the appearance of the rest of the terns with this year's young, and the small number of young at the colony, we are led to believe that this is a late nesting date record, at least for this colony, which is the only colony in the Bay area.

— Ken Schulz

JULY—LAND'S END—TRIP

After a month of incessant morning or all day fog, the weather on July 29 was perfect from beginning to end for the annual trip in the vicinity of Land's End, starting at 7:00 A.M. under the leadership of Arthur Myer. The route was along Camino del Mar for a short distance, then through the Veterans' Facility, where California Quail are always present, then along the fence of the Golf Course to the Legion of Honor building, past the Club House, on to the Land's End trail back to the starting point. From there, the nesting site of the pigeon guillemots near by was inspected, finding parents and young again this year, then going on to Sutro Gardens and to the Cliff House to look over the Seal Rocks fauna. From the Land's End trail 15 or more pigeon guillemots were seen, 9 in one group; some were on the water a little off-shore; others were resting on the rocks. Two American egrets in flight were seen from the Cliff House in close juxtaposition (apparently) to an airliner going in the same southerly direction. The following families (22) and species (36) were recorded:

PELICANS: Calif. brown. CORMORANTS: Baird. EGRETS: Amer. QUAIL: Calif. TURNSTONES: black. GULLS: west., Heerman, TERNS: Caspian. ALCIDAE: pigeon guillemot. DOVES: west. mourning. HUMMINGBIRDS: Anna, Allen. WOODPECKERS: red-sh. flicker. FLYCATCHERS: ash-th., west., olive-sd. SWALLOWS: cliff. CORVIDAE: scrub (Calif.) jay, Amer. raven. PARIDAE: ch.-bk. chickadee, bush-tit. CHAMAEIDAE: wren-tit. WRENS: house, Bewick. THRUSHES: robin (feeding young). WARBLERS: or.-cr., pileolated. WEAVER FINCHES: house sparrow. BLACKBIRDS: Brewer. FINCHES: house, pine siskin, lesser (gr.-bk.) goldfinch (feeding young), spotted towhee, Oregon junco, wh.-cr. sparrow, song sparrow.

After lunch some of the party continued to the Chain-of-Lakes in Golden Gate Park and recorded the following families (9) and species (11) in that area.

RALLIDAE: coot, with 5 young. HUMMINGBIRDS: Anna. KINGFISHERS: belted. FLYCATCHERS: black phoebe. NUTHATCHES: red-br. CERCITHIDAE: creeper. THRUSHES: russet-bk. WARBLERS: or.-cr., pileolated. FINCHES: Oregon junco, ch.-bd. chickadee.

The morning party consisted of fourteen, and the day and its results were decidedly worthwhile.

— E. A. Mayers, Historian

AUGUST—DUMBARTON BRIDGE—TRIP

On Sunday, August 13, a large group of 45 members and guests, some from as far away as Salinas, gathered for bird observation under the leadership of Mr. Carlyle Sather. Station KGO gave us the courtesy of parking on their grounds, on the approach to the bridge.

It was a beautiful day, warm with only a light breeze. The highlight in this area was the thousands of phalaropes spinning in the pools. After lunch some went to Bay Farm Island for further observations.

The following 47 species were observed in this limited habitat:

Pied-billed grebe	Willet	Rough-wd swallow
White pelican	Gr. yellow-legs	Barn swallow
Calif. br. pelican	Les. yellow-legs	Cliff swallow
Db.-cr. cormorant	Baird sandpiper	Scrub (Calif.) jay
Gt. blue heron	Least sandpiper	Robin
Amer. egret	Red-bk. sandpiper	Amer. pipit
Snowy egret	West. sandpiper	Calif. shrike
Bl.-cr. night heron	Wilson phalarope	Meadowlark
Pintail	Nor. phalarope	Bicold. blackbird
Tur. vulture	Western gull	Brewer blackbird
Marsh hawk	Calif. gull	Cowbird
Sparrow hawk	Forster tern	House finch
Snowy plover	Common tern	Savannah sparrow
Kildeer	Caspian tern	Wh.-cr. sparrow
Bk. turnstone	Mourning dove	Song sparrow
Long-bld. curlew	Black phoebe	

— Hilda Sather, Historian

BOOK NOTE: A compassionate woman during a Vermont storm rescued a drenched fledgling fluttering on her lawn, intending to give help only as long as it was needed. But as the bird and his individuality grew the situation became more involved. The subject of this factual biography is a purple finch, who turned out to have a personality surprising the experts, with understanding, adaptability, sportiveness, curiosity, temper, self-importance, a sense of comedy, and in general was the embodiment of wholly irresistible attractiveness founded on merit not sentimentality. The tale is told in 61 pages, with excellent typography and numerous characteristic illustrations by Don R. Eckleberry. The author—she is a writer of distinction, the wife of William Beebe—confines the treatment to straight reporting with overtones of humor, and with obvious pleasure in the task. The result is a case history in ornithology in the form of finished literary art. **THE BIRD WHO MADE GOOD**, by Elswyth Thane. Duell, Sloan and Pierce. 1947. \$2.00. —E.A.M.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS. The first of these color motion pictures, **BENEATH BUCKEYE SKIES**, by Karl Maslowski, will be shown October 6, at Berkeley High School Little Theatre. No tickets will be sold at the door, so secure your series now from Mr. Harold G. Peterson, 3548 - 65th Ave., Oakland 5. \$3.00 for the five lecture films.

FARALLON ISLAND BOAT TRIP

Sunday, September 10, from Berkeley Yacht Harbor, 6 a.m., from foot of Leavenworth St., San Francisco 6:45 a.m. \$6.25 fare for all day trip. Communicate with Mr. McFadyen, 2510 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4., TH. 3-8458.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The 396th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on September 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the garden of Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds, 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont.

A potluck supper will be enjoyed preceding the regular meeting. Following the business portion of the meeting there will be entertainment, movies, group singing, etc. Guests are welcome. See enclosed card.

Bus 18A on Franklin St. goes out Park Blvd. Get off at Leimert Street continue on Park Blvd. one block to Estates Drive, walk two short blocks to 140.

— Harry C. Adamson, Program Chairman

SEPTEMBER BAY FARM ISLAND TRIP

On Sunday, September 24, to Bay Farm Island, Alameda, for shore birds. Meet at Lincoln Park (Santa Clara and High Sts.) at 12:30 p.m. (day-light saving time). From San Francisco take "O" bus at 12:05. Leader: Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, LA. 2-7084. Bring lunch if desired, binoculars, telescope, and interested friends.

SEPTEMBER DIMOND CANYON TRIP

On Saturday, September 30, to Dimond Canyon, Oakland. Meet at Dimond Park at 8:30. From San Francisco take 8:00 "N" bus to Fruitvale and MacArthur, and walk north two blocks (uphill) on Fruitvale. If desired, the hike may be extended by going up Palo Seco Canyon to Joaquin Miller Park. Bring binoculars, lunch and interested friends.

— A. Laurence Curl
Chairman, Field Trips Committee

Mr. Curl's new address: 7360 Rockway Ave., El Cerrito, Calif. LA. 6-7004.

Golden Gate Audubon Society

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

Branch of National Audubon Society

President... Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds.....140 Estates Drive, Piedmont 11, AN. 1-7121
Cor. Sec. ... Mr. Edward A. Mayers....2695 Greenwich St., San Francisco 23, WE. 1-2447
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Editor..... Miss Minnie H. Young.....2726 Prince Street, Berkeley 5, HU. 3-3180

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

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Alternate months — Oakland.

Joint membership, Local & National \$5.00 per Year, includes Audubon Magazine
